

For immediate release
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Mayor Coleman Names Kimberley Jacobs Chief of Columbus Division of Police

Today, Mayor Michael B. Coleman and Public Safety Director Mitchell J. Brown announced the selection of Deputy Chief Kimberley Jacobs as the City of Columbus' 32nd chief of police. Jacobs replaces Walter Distelzweig, who served as chief since 2009. Deputy Chief Stephen Gammill has served as acting chief since Distelzweig's retirement. Jacobs will be the first woman to ever serve as Columbus chief of police.

"While we already have the best police officers in the nation, I believe they can achieve even more under the leadership of Kim Jacobs," Mayor Coleman. "Throughout her career, Kim Jacobs has exhibited leadership, dedication and a passion for the Columbus Division of Police. She has my full confidence and my best wishes for success."

Jacobs began her career with the Columbus Division of Police in 1979 as a patrol officer on the West Side. She was promoted to sergeant in 1987, to lieutenant in 1991, to commander in 1995, as the first woman in that rank; and as deputy chief in 2009, as the first woman in that rank. As deputy chief, Jacobs has overseen training, human resource management, payroll, fiscal and budgeting matters and rules, standards and application of disciplinary issues. She also serves as a liaison to City Hall, the director's office and labor unions.

"Thank you to Mayor Coleman and Director Brown for believing in me and giving me this wonderful opportunity," Chief Jacobs said. "I look forward to working with city administrators, division personnel and the community to build partnerships creating even better relationships to improve the safety and security of our citizens."

Deputy Chief Jacobs holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology with an emphasis in criminology from The Ohio State University and has attended and completed numerous law enforcement trainings. Her accomplishments on the force include leading the reorganization of Internal Affairs, helping to create the Columbus Citizen Police Academy, helping to create a drivers training program for experienced officers and overseeing the Patrol Staffing and Redistricting Plan.

Mayor Coleman made his selection with advice and consultation with Public Safety Director Brown and the Columbus Police Chief Nominating Committee, chaired by Matt Habash, president and CEO of Mid-Ohio Food Bank and former City Council president. Joining Habash on the committee were Karen Days, president of the Center for Family Safety and Healing, and Larry Price, an associate minister at Triedstone Baptist Church and president and CEO of L. Price & Associates.

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